

Message Text

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SUBJ: AFRICAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE CONFERENCE, MASERU

IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "VIEWS FROM MASERU," THE BLOEMFONTEIN, SOUTH AFRICA, "THE FRIEND" NOTED TWO SIGNIFICANT VIEWPOINTS ON POLICIES THE US WILL PURSUE TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA UNDER THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. THE EDITORIAL WAS BASED ON STATEMENTS MADE BY SENATOR DICK CLARK AND CONGRESSMEN ANDREW YOUNG DURING THE COURSE OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE CONFERENCE ON "NEW DIRECTIONS IN AFRICAN AMERICAN RELATIONS" CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN MASERU, LESOTHO.

COMMENTING ON SENATOR CLARK'S STATEMENT, THE EDITORIAL SAID: "ACCORDING TO SENATOR DICK CLARK, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL ADOPT THE HARDLINE POLICY, DESIGNED TO RESTORE AMERICAN CREDIBILITY IN BLACK AFRICA. THE UNITED STATES, HE SAID, SHOULD MAKE A CLEAR COMMITMENT TO MAJORITY RULE AND BE PREPARED TO TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO ENSURE ITS COMING ABOUT. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HE BELIEVED, WOULD WORK TOWARDS THE REMOVAL OF THE THREE REMAINING WHITE MAJORITY GOVERNMENTS IN AFRICA."

THE EDITORIAL NOTED THAT A DAY LATER CONGRESSMAN YOUNG SAID THE CARTER POLICY WILL NOT BE A TOUGHER POLICY BUT AN EASIER ONE, THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WILL MAKE IT EASIER TO DO RIGHT SINCE HE UNDERSTANDS RACISM AND HOW PEOPLE CAN CHANGE.

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"DESPITE THE APPARENT DIVERGENCE OF OPINION," THE EDITORIAL

SAID," THE TWO VIEWS ARE MORE PROBABLY COMPLEMENTARY. AS WE HAVE SEEN IN THE PAST THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A SIMPLY DEFINABLE UNITED STATES POLICY. MANY PEOPLE AND AGENCIES HAVE A SAY IN PRONOUNCING AND IMPLEMENTING POLICY, AND THAT POLICY IS LIKELY TO BE OF A GENERAL NATURE. WHAT SHOULD BE CLEAR, HOWEVER, IS THAT, IF MR YOUNG IS CORRECT AND THE US WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO INTRODUCE CHANGES, SENATOR CLARK IS PROBABLY EQUALLY CORRECT IN THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO RESIST CHANGE. A BIT OF STICK HERE AND A BIT OF CARROT THERE, IN FACT."

THE EDITORIAL SAID THAT"WHATEVER CHANGES ARE INTRODUCED WILL NEVER SATISFY ALL THIS COUNTRIES CRITICS" AND THAT SOUTH AFRICANS NEED TO APPRECIATE THAT "ANY CHANGES INTRODUCED ARE INTRODUCED TO MEET THE URGENT REQUIREMENTS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND NOT AS A SLAVE FOR BRUISED AMERICAN EGO AND CREDIBILITY," THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED. BIELAK

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